

Thayer Street District Management Authority

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Brown University, 295 Lloyd Avenue - 3rd Floor, Providence, RI

MEETING MINUTES

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) board meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

1. Roll Call

**Directors: Edward Bishop, Chair; Albert Dahlberg; Paul Griesinger;
John Luipold; and David Shwaery.**

TSDMA Staff: Robin Remy, Executive Director

**Guests: Sam Zurier, Councilman; Susan Mardo, Kartabar; Philippe
Maatouk, Kartabar; Theo Spyrides, Paragon; and Pamela
Murphy,
Property Owner**

2. Discussion and Vote on minutes from August 7, 2012, Board Meeting

Minutes from the August 7, 2012, board meeting were reviewed. Mr. Shwaery motioned to accept the minutes, Mr. Luipold seconded the motion, and all directors voted in favor.

3. Discussion and Vote on Financial Report

Financial reports for August 2012 were reviewed. Mr. Luipold motioned to accept the financial report, Mr. Griesinger seconded the motion, and all directors voted in favor.

4. Property Management Report

Mr. Luipold reported on a TSDMA meeting with Brown University representatives Donna Butler, Director of Custodial Services; Ginger Gritz, Energy & Environmental Programs Coordinator; and Kai Morrell, Energy & Environmental Outreach Coordinator. The group agreed to work jointly to expand recycling efforts and improve trash disposal methods in the district.

Mr. Maatouk, Ms. Mardo, and Mr. Spyrides expressed concerns about conditions in the district and described their efforts to encourage fellow restaurateurs to take better care of the sidewalks and areas surrounding their establishments. They also discussed with the Board various city ordinances and licensing issues related to restaurant operation in the city.

5. Food Trucks

Mr. Luipold reported on the TSDMA meeting held August 21 to

discuss issues with food trucks in the district. Mr. Spyrides suggested possible regulation of trucks' distance from Thayer Street businesses, the number of trucks grouped together, and the distance between individual trucks. The group mentioned concerns about food trucks operating later than restaurants are allowed to operate, problems with trash and hazardous waste generated by food trucks, noise and fumes from trucks' generators, and pedestrian safety issues. Mr. Dahlberg noted that TSDMA has created a Google document online where articles and information regarding food trucks are posted and can be accessed by the group.

6. Parking

Mr. Luipold reported that Brown University is exploring the possibility of making the "Lot 11" parking area (where Zipcars are parked) available for public parking in the evening and on weekends. Mr. Luipold will be speaking with professional parking lot managers and other experts regarding valet parking systems. Brown University will donate any revenue generated from parking back to the TSDMA.

Ms. Murphy suggested locating offsite parking for Thayer Street business employees to free up parking spaces within the district. Mr. Griesinger suggested having businesses qualify for inclusion in a valet parking system based on meeting "responsible retailer/restaurant" standards. Ms. Mardo suggested talking to RIPTA about a dedicated Thayer Street/Downtown shuttle to move employees and diners between downtown parking and Thayer Street

venues. Ms. Remy suggested working with Frank LaTorre of the Providence Downtown Improvement District and downtown parking facility operators to develop parking promotions.

Mr. Dahlberg noted that a report from a 2008 parking study can be located on the Brown University website by entering “College Hill Parking Task Force” in the search field. Mr. Zurier mentioned the City of Providence, College Hill Neighborhood Association, Providence Preservation Society, and Brown University are considering a possible master planning study for the Thayer Street/Brook Street corridor that would focus on future development goals for the area. There is no confirmation of whether the study will go forward, how it will be funded, and who will participate at this time.

7. Other Business – Board

Mr. Griesinger addressed the out of date TSDMA website and asked that detailed information for updating and improving the website be presented at the next board meeting. The group discussed additional methods to market the district, including TSDMA newsletters and communications, local media promotions, and engaging professional event planners.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 pm.